

# Give trucks a proper route to bypass city

## Dear Editor:

I am an Ahwatukee resident and have been reading all the articles that have been published about the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.

What I've come to notice is that most of the letters written by people who are in favor of the freeway are usually people who work on the west side. My question to them is why not live on the Westside? It would save you some gas and most of all precious time. I also get a kick out of the people who work downtown and say they will use it. That makes a lot of sense, to exit at 51st or 77th avenue and then fight traffic going back to downtown.

A guest Commentary published by the *Ahwatukee Foothills News* on January 20th was very interesting. It opened my eyes to the pollution the Loop would create and talked about a truck bypass using Interstate 8 and state Route 85.

I personally agree that a proper truck bypass would be the answer.

For those people who are stuck in traffic on I-10, take notice of how many trucks there are during rush hour. Trucks add to congestion, simply because they are much slower in traffic, a good truck driver distances himself from the car in front of him, but once he stops, to start again is a much slower process, unlike an automobile. I'm not discrediting truck drivers, I'm just stating a plain fact.

Another problem with trucks is our state laws allow them to use all lanes, while other states keep them in the two right lanes.

Wouldn't it make sense to use and update the existing truck bypass? I'm no expert, but it seems to me it would have to be much cheaper to build where you don't have to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to uproot people from their homes. Also putting it farther out of town might help our pollution problem. The commentary also talked of extending Pecos Road to 51st Avenue, keeping trucks off by weight restriction.

In closing, I would like to say, if that were a possibility, the land ADOT already owns is very valuable. It could be sold for millions to homebuilders and small retail. Maybe we've just saved and made enough money to fund the widening of I-10 and 17.

**Jerry Piotrowski**

## Tone down signs in village

### Dear Editor:

While we are all somewhat focused on preserving the cul de sac/village feel of Ahwatukee by opposing the construction of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway, can we also lobby to tone down the horrible signage in the village?

I mean really? Do we need an ever-glowing 9-foot-tall Jack in the Box sign frying the corneas of all those who cannot resist its siren-like call to look and ultimately stop in for some of the wretched fare they serve up day and night.

Anyway, the point being, make the corporations bend to the feel of the community. It is really disheartening to see these gross symbols superimposed on the views of South Mountain.

**Paul D. Meehan**